

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A data storage device for storing digital information in a readable form comprises one or more memory elements, each memory element comprising a planar magnetic conduit capable of sustaining and propagating a magnetic domain wall formed into a continuous propagation track, wherein each continuous track is provided with at least one inversion node whereat the magnetization direction of a domain wall propagating along the conduit under action of a suitable an applied field is changed, each inversion node comprising a portion in which a direction change away from ~~the~~ an initial path and a subsequent direction change back to the initial path are provided in the conduit such that no direct propagation path is possible across ~~the a~~ deviating portion.

15. (currently amended) ~~[[A]] The data storage device of in accordance with claim 14~~ wherein each continuous track is provided with at least one inversion node whereat the magnetization direction of a domain wall propagating along the conduit under action of a suitable applied field is substantially reversed.

16. (currently amended) ~~[[A]] The data storage device of in accordance with claim 14~~ wherein each continuous track is provided with a large plurality of inversion nodes.

17. (currently amended) ~~[[A]] The data storage device of in accordance with claim 15~~ wherein each continuous track is provided with a large plurality of inversion nodes.

18. (currently amended) [[A]] The data storage device of in accordance with claim 14 wherein a conduit is formed into a closed loop to comprise a continuous propagation track.

19. (currently amended) [[A]] The data storage device of in accordance with claim 15 wherein a conduit is formed into a closed loop to comprise a continuous propagation track.

20. (currently amended) [[A]] The data storage device of in accordance with claim 16 wherein a conduit is formed into a closed loop to comprise a continuous propagation track.

21. (currently amended) [[A]] The data storage device of in accordance with claim 14 wherein a conduit does not form an entire closed loop but a chain of inversion nodes, and means are provided to transfer data between the two ends thereof so that data is still able to circulate around an apparently closed loop, the means comprising a data writing facility at one end of the chain and data reading facility at the other end of the chain, and additional circuitry to feed the data back electronically from the output of the chain to the input of the chain.

22. (currently amended) [[A]] The data storage device of in accordance with claim 14 wherein deviations comprise 90° deviations from the initial path of the conduit.

23. (currently amended) [[A]] The data storage device of in accordance with claim 14 wherein deviations from the initial path occur gradually over a distance along the conduit track.

24. (currently amended) [[A]] The data storage device of in accordance with claim 14 wherein the inversion node comprises a cycloidal portion within a conduit loop structure or a topological equivalent of such a structure.

25. (currently amended) [[A]] The data storage device ~~of in accordance with~~ claim 24 comprising a plurality of such cycloidal portions provided in each loop.

26. (currently amended) [[A]] The data storage device ~~of in accordance with~~ claim 25 comprising a number of magnetic conduits formed into closed loops each comprising a plurality of cycloids serving to effect abrupt directional reversals in a magnetization direction of a domain wall passing thereacross.

27. (currently amended) [[A]] The data storage device ~~of in accordance with~~ claim 26 wherein each cycloid has a turning radius which is in the range three to ten times the conduit width.

28. (currently amended) [[A]] The data storage device ~~of in accordance with~~ claim 14 wherein the magnetic conduit comprises a particular generally planar magnetic wire on a suitable substrate.

29. (currently amended) [[A]] The data storage device ~~of in accordance with~~ claim 28 wherein the magnetic wire comprises a magnetic nanowire with a thickness of between 2 nm and 25 nm and a width of between 50 nm and 1 μ m.